

REMARKS

By this Preliminary Amendment, claims 3, 6-7, 9-10, 13, 17 and 19 are amended to remove the multiple dependencies. No new matter has been added. After entry of this Preliminary Amendment, claims 1-20 will remain pending in the patent application.

An early and favorable action on the merits is respectfully requested.

Please charge any fees associated with the submission of this paper to Deposit Account Number 033975. The Commissioner for Patents is also authorized to credit any over payments to the above-referenced Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

PILLSBURY WINTHROP SHAW PITTMAN LLP

all
CHRISTOPHE F. LAIR
Reg. No. 54248
Tel. No. 703.770.7797
Fax No. 703.770.7901

CFL/smm
P.O. Box 10500
McLean, VA 22102
(703) 770-7900